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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,882	10/23/2003	Robert M. Japp	END920000150US2	8999
30449	7590	03/24/2006	EXAMINER	
SCHMEISER, OLSEN + WATTS 3 LEAR JET LANE SUITE 201 LATHAM, NY 12110			NORDMEYER, PATRICIA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,882

Applicant(s)

JAPP ET AL.

Examiner

Patricia L. Nordmeyer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-13, 17, 32, 34-37 and 40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-13, 17, 32, 34-37 and 40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawal of Finality

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

New Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2 - 5, 10, 17, 32 and 40 - 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatch et al. (USPN 4,929,370) in view of Weinreich (USPN 5,435,671) and Sinclair et al. (USPN 5,834,582).

Hatch et al. teach a structure comprising a stack comprising a plurality of sheets such that each successive sheet is coupled with a removable adhesive between each sheet and in direct mechanical contact with the successive sheets in each pair, and an opening extends through the plurality of sheets within the stack (Column 1, lines 10 – 25). The sheets may be selected from copper (Col. 4, lines 31-46). The removable adhesive is in the form of a semi-solid lubricant (Col. 5, lines 30-45). The adhesive layer helps produce smooth-walled drill holes, i.e., burr free

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holes (Col. 5, lines 37-40). The adhesive layer adheres to substrates in a semi-solid solid form (Col. 3, lines 55-62) and transfers to the drill bit at higher temperatures – i.e., the removable adhesive melts, thereby making it a liquid while adhesively coupling the successive sheets to each other, at operating conditions to provide lubrication for the drill bit (Col. 5, line 25 to Col. 6, line 35). The removable adhesive has a melting temperature of 60-65°F. Thus, it is implicit that the entire structure operates at temperature conditions within this range or above to facilitate melting of the adhesive and subsequent lubrication of the drill bit.

Hatch et al. further teach the use of entry and exit materials positioned on opposing sides of the stack of sheets (Fig. 3, #s 34 and 36). The entry and exit material for the sheets is typically some type of paper base or thin metal sheet such as aluminum (Col. 6, lines 54-56). Although Hatch et al. teach the use of an entry and exit material layer, Hatch et al. fail to teach the use of a burr preventing layer/ foil layer combination, the adhesive is a liquid while adhesively coupling the successive sheets to each other and the removable adhesive consisting of a material selected from the group consisting of fructose and sucrose as claimed by the Applicant.

Weinreich, however, teach the use of a multilayered entry/exit board comprising a paper board laminate impregnated with a lubricant and aluminum foil layer combination (see Fig. 1). The multilayered entry/exit board is taught by Weinreich for the purpose of resisting burr-formation during drilling (Col. 2, lines 21-46). . It is notoriously well known in the art that an adhesive material made with sucrose material is removable and may be applied as a liquid as

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evidenced Sinclair et al. (Col. 24, lines 15 – 20; Col. 55, lines 4 – 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have combined the teachings of Hatch et al., Weinreich and Sinclair et al. since each of the aforementioned references are analogous insofar as being directed at entry/exit substrates for improving the drilling of stacked metal substrates.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have modified Hatch et al. to include a multilayered entry/exit board as taught by Weinreich in order to resist burr-formation during drilling and to have substituted the semi-solid adhesive material in the Hatch et al. with a adhesive made from a sucrose material as taught by Sinclair et al. in order to have an strong bond between disparate materials (Col. 24, lines 34 – 36).

With regards to the claim 17 limitation that there exists a plurality of stacks with intermediate burr-preventing layers, although Hatch et al. and Weinreich both fail to explicitly teach a multi-stack formation, modifying the aforementioned art to include a plurality of stacks would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 70. Here, the essential working parts of the invention are taught by Hatch et al. and Weinreich and one of ordinary skill in the art need only duplicate the base stack formation to be in accordance with the Applicant's claimed invention. Furthermore, the outermost aluminum layer in a stack as taught

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by Hatch et al. can serve as an intermediate layer as claimed by the applicant when in multiple stack formation.

4. Claims 6 – 9, 12, 13 and 34 – 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatch et al. (USPN 4,929,370) in view of Weinreich (USPN 5,435,671) and Sinclair et al. (USPN 5,834,582) as applied to claims 2 - 5, 10, 17, 32 and 40 - 42 above, and further in view of Frater (USPN 6,355,360).

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Hatch et al., Weinreich and Sinclair et al. teach a structure as detailed above. The aforementioned prior art is silent with regards to the use of a three stainless steel plates on each side of the stack of metal substrates as well as a blotter pad within the three stainless steel plates. It is notoriously well known in the art, however, to provide at least three stainless plates in combination with a foil layer in the production of printed circuit boards as evidenced by Frater (Col. 2, lines 53-64). These steel plates implicitly comprise pressure heads wherein a compressive force acts upon the entire substrate. Frater teaches that it is generally well known in the art to use multiple steel plates to prevent and minimize scrap and rework due to image transfer and surface quality problems (Col. 2, lines 53-54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicants invention was made to have combined the teachings of Hatch et al., Weinreich, Sinclair et al. and Frater, since each of the aforementioned references are analogous insofar as being directed to improving the drilling operation in stacked metal formations.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have modified Hatch et al., Weinreich and Sinclair et al. to include a three layered stainless steel configuration on each side of the foil layer lying adjacent the top and bottom of the stack of sheets as taught by Frater in order to prevent and minimize scrap and rework due to image transfer and surface quality problems. It further would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a paper (blotter) substrate between one of the steel plates since it is notoriously well known in the art to provide paper substrates in order to facilitate even application of pressure between opposing plates.

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5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatch et al. (USPN 4,929,370) in view of Weinreich (USPN 5,435,671) and Sinclair et al. (USPN 5,834,582) as applied to claims 2 - 5, 10, 17, 32 and 40 - 42 above, and further in view of Block (USPN 4,269,549).

Hatch et al., Weinreich and Sinclair et al. teach a structure as detailed above. Each of the aforementioned references detail the use of aluminum foil layer but fail to teach the use of a copper foil layer other than Hatch et al.'s disclosure of stacked copper substrates. It is notoriously well known in the art, however, that although aluminum is generally a preferred foil material, functionally equivalent foil materials including copper, magnesium, and steel may also be used as the foil sheets in entry/exit board formations as evidenced by Block (Col. 2, lines 5-11). Therefore, absent demonstration of unexpected results, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have substituted the aluminum foil layer in both Hatch et al., Weinreich and Sinclair et al. with a functionally equivalent copper layer as taught by Block depending on the desired end product.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2 – 13, 17, 32, 34-37 and 40 – 42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. However, since the same prior art is being applied in the above rejections, the arguments will be responded to below.

In response to Applicant's argument that Sinclair does not disclose that the adhesive

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material may be applied as a liquid, and that Sinclair's polymers serve as solute and not as solvent, Sinclair et al. discloses that polymer material was dissolved in a low boiling solvent (Column 24, lines 26 – 28), wherein a solvent, as defined by www.webster.com, is usually a liquid substance capable of dissolving or dispersing one or more other substances. Since Sinclair et al. states that polymer material, while being a solute in the solvent, was dissolved in a low boiling solvent, it is inherent that the adhesive material was applied in a liquid form to the surface of the layers.

In response to Applicant's argument that Hatch's dry film lubricant is most certainly not a liquid after being hardened by the hardener, Hatch discloses that the lubricant is a solid or semi-solid film formed (Column 5, lines 30 – 45). A semi-solid, as defined by www.webster.com, has the qualities of both a solid and a liquid, being highly viscous. While, the lubricant film formed in Hatch is considered a dry film, the definition of semi-solid shows that it may be considered a highly viscous liquid material.

In response to Applicant's arguments that claims 3 and 42 recite closed end language, and therefore, the adhesive of Sinclair et al. does not apply, the limitations of the claim include the presence of a water solution, which reads upon the adhesive of Sinclair et al. since the polymer is dissolved in a low boiling solvent, which would include water, and forms a solution with both the sucrose and the solvent.

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Conclusion

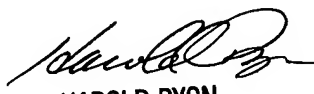
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Nordmeyer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1496. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 7:00-4:30 & alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patricia L. Nordmeyer
Examiner
Art Unit 1772

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

3/21/08